Provision of low cost personal computers

*73. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to provide low cost personal computers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that for the below Rs. 10,000 computers, the Government desires financing packages as well as suitable policies to ensure their mass production; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) to (d) The Government is facilitating the Industry through suitable policy measures to make available personal computers (PCs) at affordable prices for the masses. An Expert Committee on "PC Penetration, Internet and Domestic Software" set up on January 11,2005 by the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, Department of Information Technology submtted its report on April 26,2005. The Committee has recommended several measures for popularization of usage of computers, the internet and at the same time making personal computers affordable through easy financing.

Diversion of funds

*74. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total corpus in the Employees Provident Fund at present;

(b) whether Government are investing certain portion of the fund in stocks and shares;

(c) if so, the details of stocks and shares in which the funds are invested;

(d) whether Government are considering to divert a portion of the funds for granting pension to the contributors and for undertaking certain